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ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
THE BATMAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
WHY DID YOU KILL MY HUSBAND, BATMAN? WHY?... WHY?!?
FIVE FATEFUL DAYS -- OF PLANNING AGAINST THE UNKNOWN -- OF HOPING AGAINST HOPE IN THE FACE OF TERROR AND IMPENDING CATASTROPHE -- FIVE FRENETIC DAYS HAVE LED TO THIS INCREDIBLE MOMENT IN...
"THE ATTACK OF THE WIRE-HEAD KILLERS"
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COLORIST: JERRY SERPE
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
PENCILLER: JOHN CALNAN
INKER: DICK GIORDANO
6-2846

BATMAN, Vol. 39, No. 302, August, 1978. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1978 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or deed, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737. Annual subscription rate $5.00. Outside U.S.A. $6.00

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ALL NIGHT THE RADIO AND TV CRACKLE WITH THE NEWS--AND BY MORNING...

BATMAN CHARGED WITH HOMICIDE!

GOTHAM NEWS LATE EDITION

RELEASED ON OWN RECOGNIZANCE!!

IT IS NINE A.M. AT THE PENTHOUSE OF *BRUCE WAYNE*--WHO DIVIDES HIS LIFE BETWEEN HIS PUBLIC IDENTITY AS TYCOON AND PLAYBOY,.. AND THE SHADOWY EXISTENCE OF HIS ALTER EGO, *THE BATMAN*--

--AND WHO IS AT THE MOMENT DEALING WITH THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF *DICK GRAYSON* --A.K.A. *ROBIN, THE TEEN WONDER*--THESE DAYS AN UNDERGRADUATE AT *HUDSON U*...

NEWS GUILTY

SPARE ME THAT "WHAT-ARE-YOU DOING-HERE?" ROUTINE! THESE HEADLINES--*THAT'S* WHY I'M HERE!

HOMICIDE! AND THEY SAY YOU ADMITTED IT! HOW'D YOU EVER GET INTO SUCH A *MESS?*

BELIEVE ME, IT WASN'T *EASY!*

NOW SIT DOWN AND LISTEN--YOU, TOO, ALFRED--AND I PROMISE TO MAKE YOUR HEADS SPIN!

FOR YEARS WE'VE BEEN PICKING UP VAGUE GRAPEVINE RUMORS ABOUT AN UNKNOWN *OVERLORD OF CRIME* IN *GOTHAM!*

HIS RULE OVER THE LOCAL MOBS IS BASED ON A SECRET BAND OF KILLERS CALLED "*WIRE-HEADS*"--BECAUSE OF A PLATINUM *ANKH* SUPPOSEDLY IMPLANTED IN THEIR SKULLS!

"IF THE OVERLORD WERE TO DIE ANY BUT A NATURAL DEATH, THESE *WIRE-HEADS*--THEMSELVES UNAWARE OF THEIR STATE--ARE PROGRAMMED TO KILL ANYONE EVEN REMOTELY CONNECTED WITH THAT DEATH!"

"AND THAT WOULD MEAN *MASSACRE* RAMPANT IN THE CITY!"

"SIX DAYS AGO, A MAN NAMED *JUDSON PRICE* WAS ACCIDENTALLY KILLED DURING A BANK-HEIST--"

"--AND HIS AUTOPSY *REVEALED A PLATINUM ANKH IN HIS SKULL!*"

"TO FERRET OUT THE OVERLORD AND HIS WIRE-HEADS, I WORKED OUT A PLAN WITH GORDON IN WHICH I'D MASQUERADE AS A WEIRD CHARACTER NAMED AKELDAMA--"
"--WHO BY PROJECTING 'MENTAL WAVES' AT A CHOSEN VICTIM COULD CAUSE HIM TO DROP DEAD OF HEART FAILURE!"
THAT MADE HIM THE PERFECT ASSASSIN FOR RIVAL MOBSTERS TO USE AGAINST THE OVERLORD!
WITH AKELDAMA, THEY COULD KILL HIM -- AND HAVE IT ASCRIBED TO NATURAL CAUSES!
FOR SOME TIME, THE COMMISSIONER HAD SUSPECTED SOMEONE IN HIS IMMEDIATE CIRCLE OF LEAKING CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL TO THE LUKE BRANT MOB...
... AND WE HOPED TO USE THIS LEAK TO GET OUT THE WORD ON AKELDAMA!
"SO I DEMONSTRATED AKELDAMA'S 'PROWESS' AT KILLING -- ALL PREARRANGED, WITH ONLY GORDON AND CHIEF O'HARA IN THE KNOW -- BEFORE A SELECT GROUP OF GORDON'S TOP OFFICERS..."
"... FIRST AT H.Q., THEN AT THE BAY-VIEW GOLF CLUB!"
"WITHIN MINUTES OF THAT SECOND DEMONSTRATION, BRANT'S MASKED HOODS GRABBED ME!"
"MASKED BECAUSE MY SHTICK WORKED ONLY IF I KNEW A VICTIM'S FACE ... AND LOCATION!..."
"... AT THEIR HIDEOUT, THEY SHOWED ME A PHOTO OF THE OVERLORD -- MALCOLM MILLBROOK, OSTENSIBLY A RETIRED REAL ESTATE MILLIONAIRE -- AND GAVE ME HIS LOCATION..."
"... I DID MY AKELDAMA BIT AGAIN... TOLD THEM MILLBROOK WAS DEAD -- AND BRANT IMMEDIATELY TOOK OFF TO CHECK IT OUT!..."
3

"AS SOON AS HE LEFT, I CHECKED MYSELF OUT--"
"WHEN I GOT TO MILLBROOK'S HOUSE, BRANT PULLED A GUN-- SHOT AT BOTH OF US-- AND KILLED MILLBROOK!"
BLAM BLAM BLAM!
WHEN MILLBROOK'S WIFE RUSHED IN AND FOUND ME HOLDING THE GUN-- I CONFESSED TO KILLING HER HUSBAND! THE UNTHINKABLE ALTERNATIVE-- NAMING BRANT AS THE KILLER-- WOULD HAVE ACTIVATED THE WIRE-HEADS!
SO NOW, INSTEAD OF A CITY-WIDE GANG WAR--
--YOU, MASTER BRUCE, HAVE BECOME THE SOLITARY TARGET OF THE WIRE-HEADS!
NOT SOLITARY, ALFRED! THERE ARE TWO OF US!
AND ONE OF US IS GOING TO FLY RIGHT BACK TO HUDSON IN TIME FOR AFTERNOON CLASSES!
WHY? WHAT AM I--A LIABILITY?
DICK, THERE ARE PROBLEMS ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF MY CONTINUING ON PATROL! BRINGING YOU IN WOULD ONLY COMPOUND THE DIFFICULTIES... I'M EXPECTING A HARD TIME WHEN I SEE GORDON TONIGHT.
...SO DON'T YOU GIVE ME ONE, HUH?
ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN!
4
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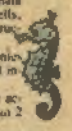

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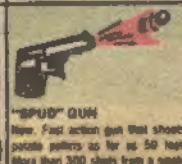

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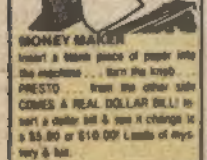

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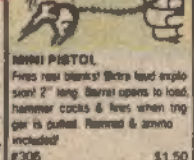

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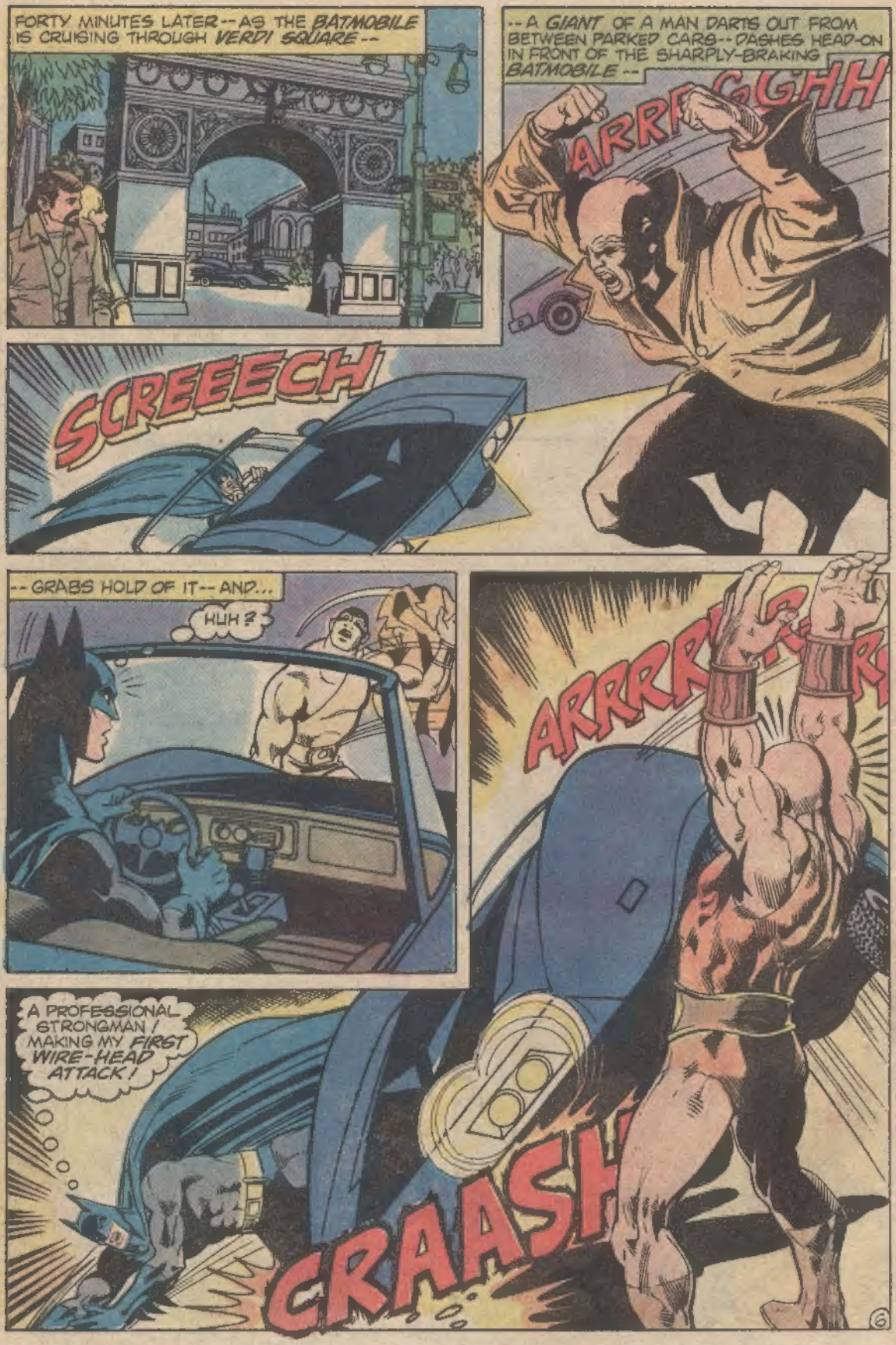
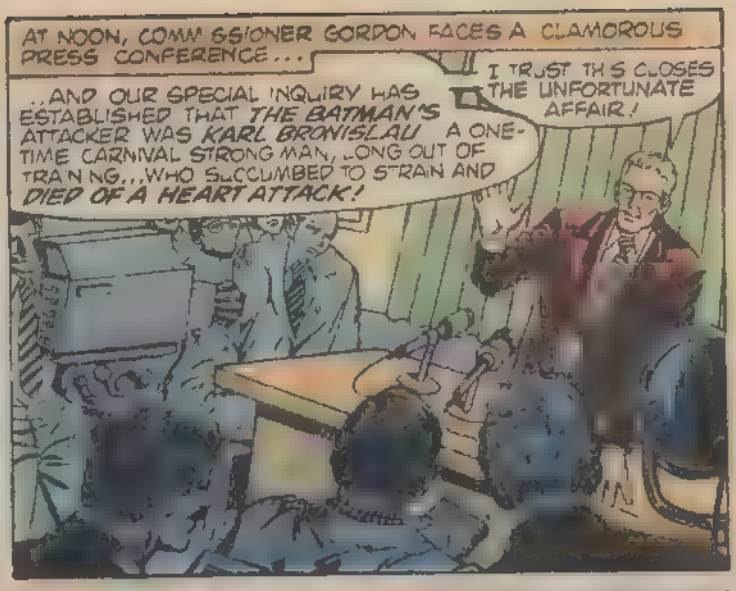
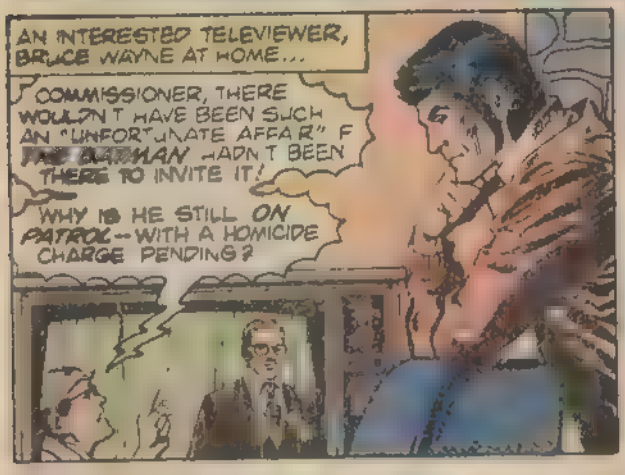
THAT NIGHT...
MILLBROOK, THE KINGPIN OF CRIME?!
BUT WHAT CONCEIVABLE LINK CAN THERE BE BETWEEN HIM AND JUDSON PRICE, A PROMINENT, REPUTABLE CITIZEN--?
COMMISSIONER--YOU TOOK CARE OF YOUR CHAUFFEUR AS I ASKED?
THE I.D. BOYS PICKED HIM UP AND HE CONFESSED!
WHAT A RELIEF KNOWING HE WAS THE LEAK TO BRANT ...AND NOT ONE OF MY ASSOCIATES!
HOW DID YOU--?
HE FITTED EVERY REQUIREMENT/ HE KNEW ALL ABOUT AKELDAMA BY EAVESDROPPING ON YOUR CARPHONE!
WITH A SMALL RADIO, HE KEPT BRANT POSTED ON YOUR WHEREABOUTS--AS WELL AS AKELDAMA'S!
ONLY HE COULD'VE MADE SUCH A SWIFT, SECRET CALL WHEN AKELDAMA APPEARED AT THE GOLF CLUB!
YOU AND YOUR OFFICERS WERE IN PLAIN VIEW OF EACH OTHER--WHILE YOUR CHAUFFEUR WAS NEARBY IN THE PARKING LOT--OBSERVING EVERYTHING -- BUT HIMSELF UNOBSERVED!
BATMAN, IT'S ALWAYS SO SIMPLE...AFTER YOU EXPLAIN IT!
BUT NOW, WITH YOU OUT OF ACTION--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--OUT OF ACTION?!
THE MAYOR CALLED ME! HE WANTS YOU ON THE SHELF--ALL OPERATIONS SUSPENDED--UNTIL THE HOMICIDE CHARGE IS CLEARED!
I CAN'T CLEAR IT UNTIL I ROUND UP THE WIRE-HEADS!
AND THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET AT THEM IS BY LETTING THEM GET AT ME--WHILE I CONTINUE NORMAL PATROL!
BATMAN, YOU'RE RIGHT! NEVERTHELESS --I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO CONTINUE!
ON THE OTHER HAND--JUST BETWEEN US--YOU CAN'T STOP ME, EITHER!
RIGHT AGAIN, BATMAN!

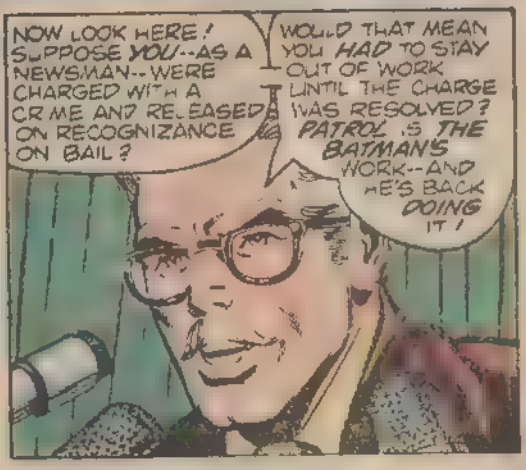

FORTY MINUTES LATER -- AS THE BATMOBILE IS CRUISING THROUGH VERDI SQUARE --
-- A GIANT OF A MAN DARTS OUT FROM BETWEEN PARKED CARS -- DASHES HEAD-ON IN FRONT OF THE SHARPLY-BRAKING BATMOBILE --
ARRRGGHH
SCREEECH
-- GRABS HOLD OF IT -- AND...
HUH?
ARRRRR
A PROFESSIONAL STRONGMAN! MAKING MY FIRST WIRE-HEAD ATTACK!
CRAASH
6

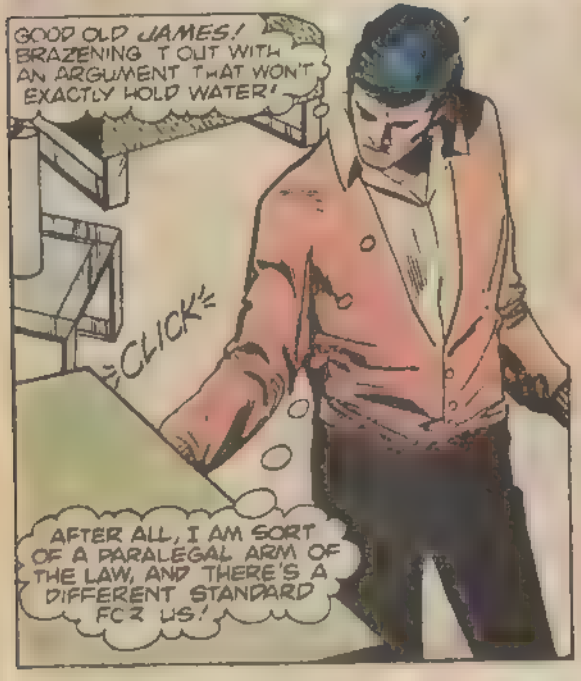
SOMEHOW HE'S ZEROED IN ON ME!
ZOK
UHHHH
SUDDENLY-- THE STEEL SNEWS THAT SEEK TO STRANGLE THE BATMAN GO LIMP AND...
WHAT HAPPENED? A STROKE-- HEART ATTACK?
JUST LIKE JUDSON PRICE--HE'S GOT THAT SAME STRANGE CONVEX KNURL AT THE BACK OF HIS SKULL!
HE'S A WIRE-HEAD--AND HE'S DEAD!
I CAN JUST IMAGINE WHAT THE PAPERS WILL MAKE OF THIS!
7

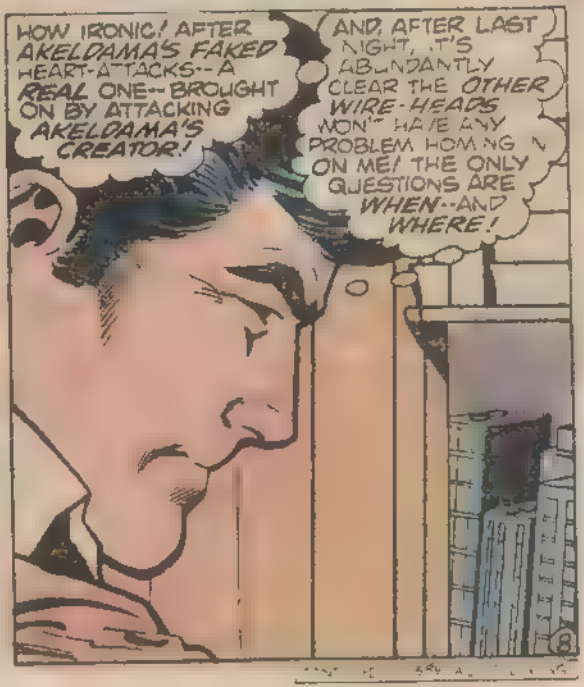
NEXT MORNING-- SWIFT CONFIRMATION OF THE CAPED CRUSADER'S FOREBODING!
THE GOTHAM NEW
ESTABLISHED 1886
BATMAN KILLS AGAIN
CLAIMS DEATH TRAGIC RESULT OF UNPROVOKED ATTACK!
WITNESSES SUPPORT BATMA BUT CRISIS GROWS AT POLICE H.Q!


AT NOON, COMM SSIONER GORDON FACES A CLAMOROUS PRESS CONFERENCE...
..AND OUR SPECIAL INQUIRY HAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE BATMAN'S ATTACKER WAS KARL BRONISLAU A ONE-TIME CARNIVAL STRONG MAN, LONG OUT OF TRA N NG,..WHO SUCCUMBED TO STRAIN AND DIED OF A HEART ATTACK!
I TRUST TH S CLOSES THE UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR!


AN INTERESTED TELEVIEWER, BRUCE WAYNE AT HOME...
COMMISSIONER, THERE WOULDN T HAVE BEEN SUCH AN "UNFORTUNATE AFFA R" F THE BATMAN HADN T BEEN THERE TO INVITE IT!
WHY IS HE STILL ON PATROL--WITH A HOMICIDE CHARGE PENDING?


NOW LOOK HERE! SUPPOSE YOU--AS A NEWSMAN--WERE CHARGED WITH A CR ME AND RELEASED ON RECOGNIZANCE ON BAIL?
WOULD THAT MEAN YOU HAD TO STAY OUT OF WORK UNTIL THE CHARGE WAS RESOLVED? PATROL IS THE BATMAN'S WORK--AND HE'S BACK DOING IT!


GOOD OLD JAMES! BRAZENING T OUT WITH AN ARGUMENT THAT WON'T EXACTLY HOLD WATER!
CLICK
AFTER ALL, I AM SORT OF A PARALEGAL ARM OF THE LAW, AND THERE'S A DIFFERENT STANDARD FOR US!


HOW IRONIC! AFTER AKELDAMA'S FAKED HEART-ATTACKS--A REAL ONE--BROUGHT ON BY ATTACKING AKELDAMA'S CREATOR!
AND, AFTER LAST NIGHT, IT'S ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THE OTHER WIRE-HEADS WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM HOMING IN ON ME! THE ONLY QUESTIONS ARE WHEN--AND WHERE!

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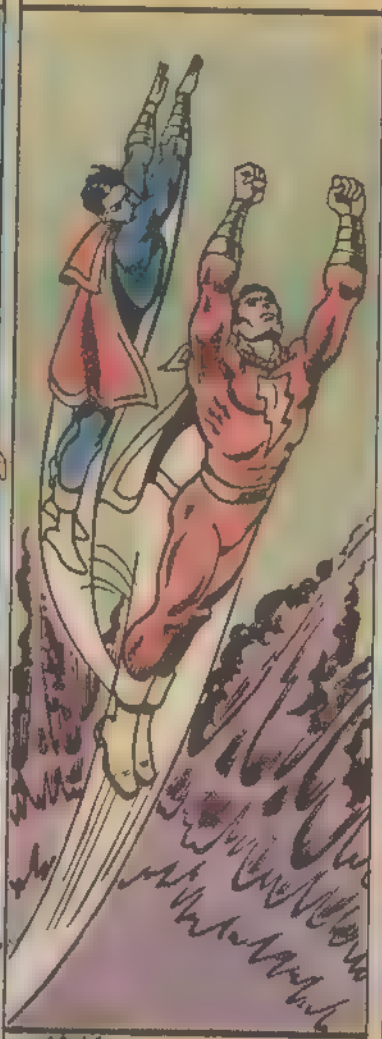
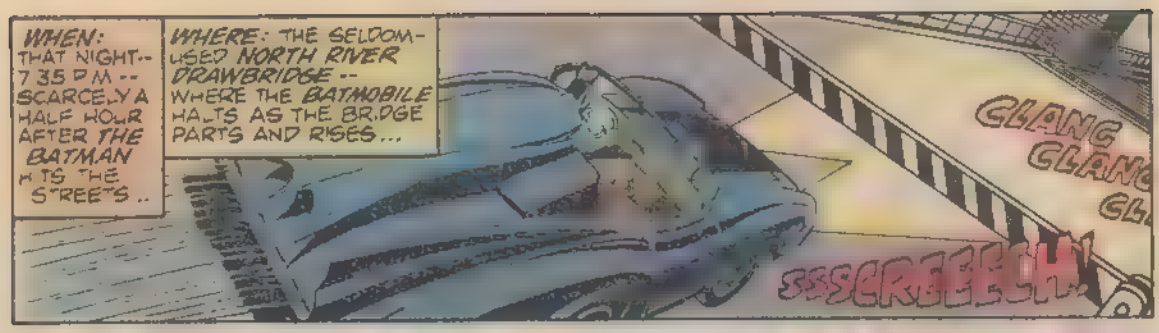


NOW! IN EACH ISSUE OF
WORLD'S FINEST

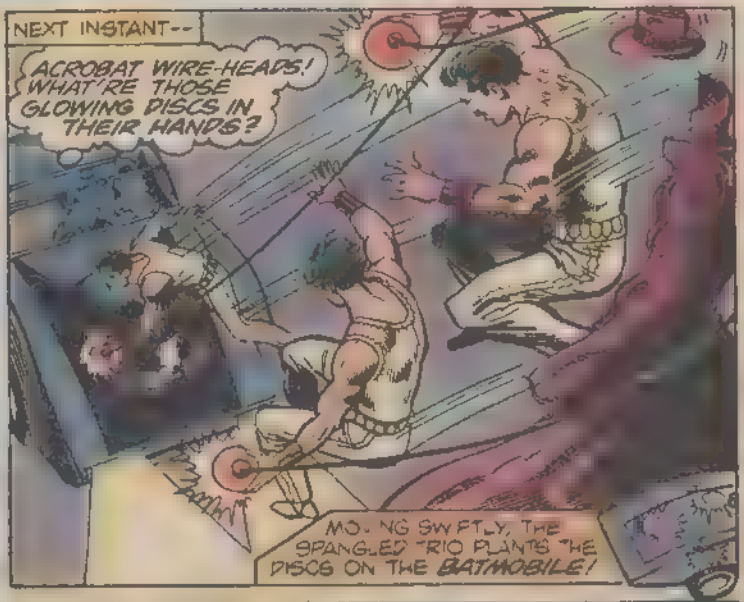
The HUMAN TARGET
BY LEN WEIN
AND DICK GIORDANO

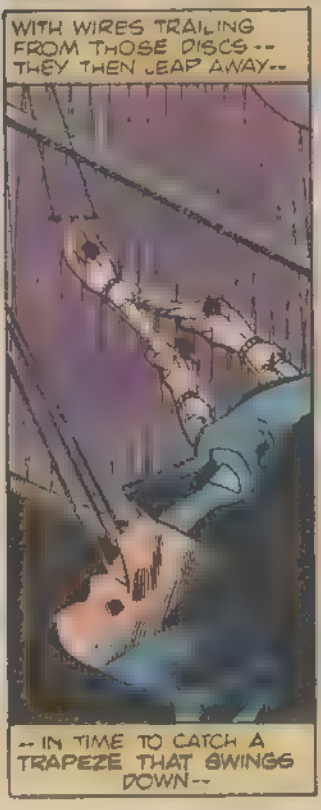
RETURNS TO ACTION IN
the BRAVE and the BOLD

THE EXPLOSION!

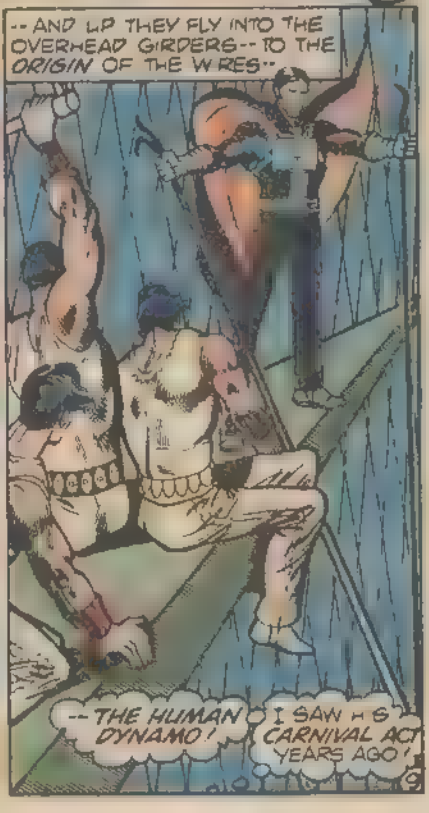

WHEN: THAT NIGHT-- 7:35 P.M. -- SCARCELY A HALF HOUR AFTER THE BATMAN HITS THE STREETS..
WHERE: THE SELDOM-USED NORTH RIVER DRAWBRIDGE -- WHERE THE BATMOBILE HALTS AS THE BRIDGE PARTS AND RISES...
CLANG
CLANG
CL
SSSCREEECH!

--WHO WAS APPARENTLY LYING ON THE BRIDGE ROADWAY JUST BEYOND THE BARRIER--AND STOOD UPRIGHT AS THE BRIDGE WAS RAISED UP!


NEXT INSTANT--
ACROBAT WIRE-HEADS! WHAT'RE THOSE GLOWING DISCS IN THEIR HANDS?
MOVING SWIFTLY, THE SPANGLED TRIO PLANTS THE DISCS ON THE BATMOBILE!



--IN TIME TO CATCH A TRAPEZE THAT SWINGS DOWN--



PTSSS

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YOU COULD WIN A TI
APPEAR IN A SUPER

Okay, all you characters out there. Here's your big chance to be a real character. Comic-book style.

You don't have to buy anything. Or do anything, except to mail us the Famous Clark Bar Superhero Sweepstakes entry blank with your name and address.

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If you're lucky enough to win the first prize, Clark will fly you and your family (limit of four people) to New York City and back.

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You'll have plenty of free time in Gotham, too. For seeing the Statue of Liberty, or taking boat rides, or just looking up at tall buildings a lot and saying "Wow!"

And, when your comic-book adventure is published, we'll send you 15 copies for your family and friends. They'll be proud to know a famous person like you.

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If you're one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your choice of Famous Superhero watches. Superman, Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, Batman, or (if your taste should happen to run to supervillains instead) the Joker. The watches are Swiss-made, with full-color superhero pictures, and would normally sell for $19.95 to $23.95.

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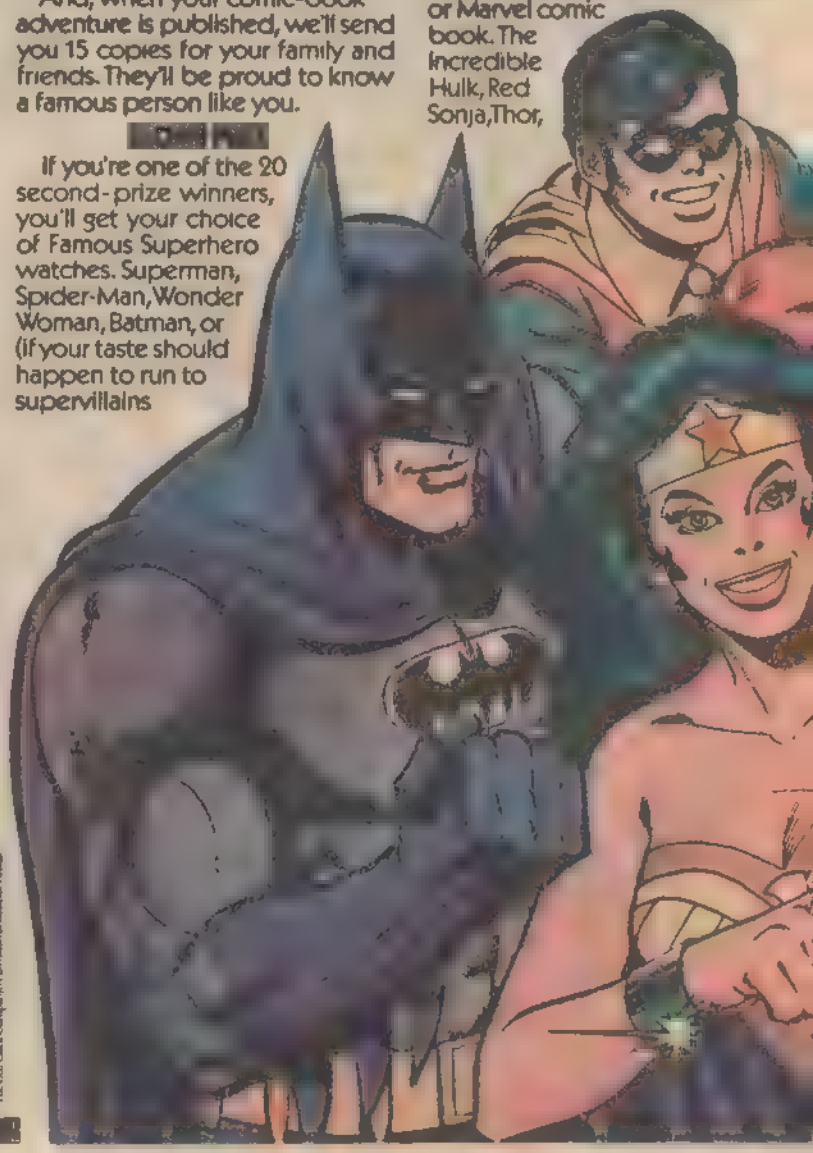

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RULES

1. To enter, type or print clearly your name, address and zip code on this official entry blank or on a plain piece of 3 x 5 paper. You can enter as many times as you want, but each entry must be mailed separately.
2. With each entry, send one wrapper from any Clark or Hollowtex candy product, or the words FAMOUS CLARK BARS printed on a separate piece of 3 x 5 paper. (You can send wrappers from Clark Crows, Zagnut Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke or Black Cow.)
3. Send entries to Superhero Sweepstakes, Box 55, Chicago, Illinois 60677.
4. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 10, 1978.
5. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted by H. Olsen & Company, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.
6. Prizes are non-transferable and substitution of prizes is not allowed. Only one prize to a family. The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.
7. This sweepstakes is open to all U.S. residents, except employees (and their immediate families) of Beatrice Foods, its advertising agencies, and H. Olsen & Company. Void in Missouri, and wherever else prohibited by law. Subject to all Federal, state and local laws and regulations.
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106

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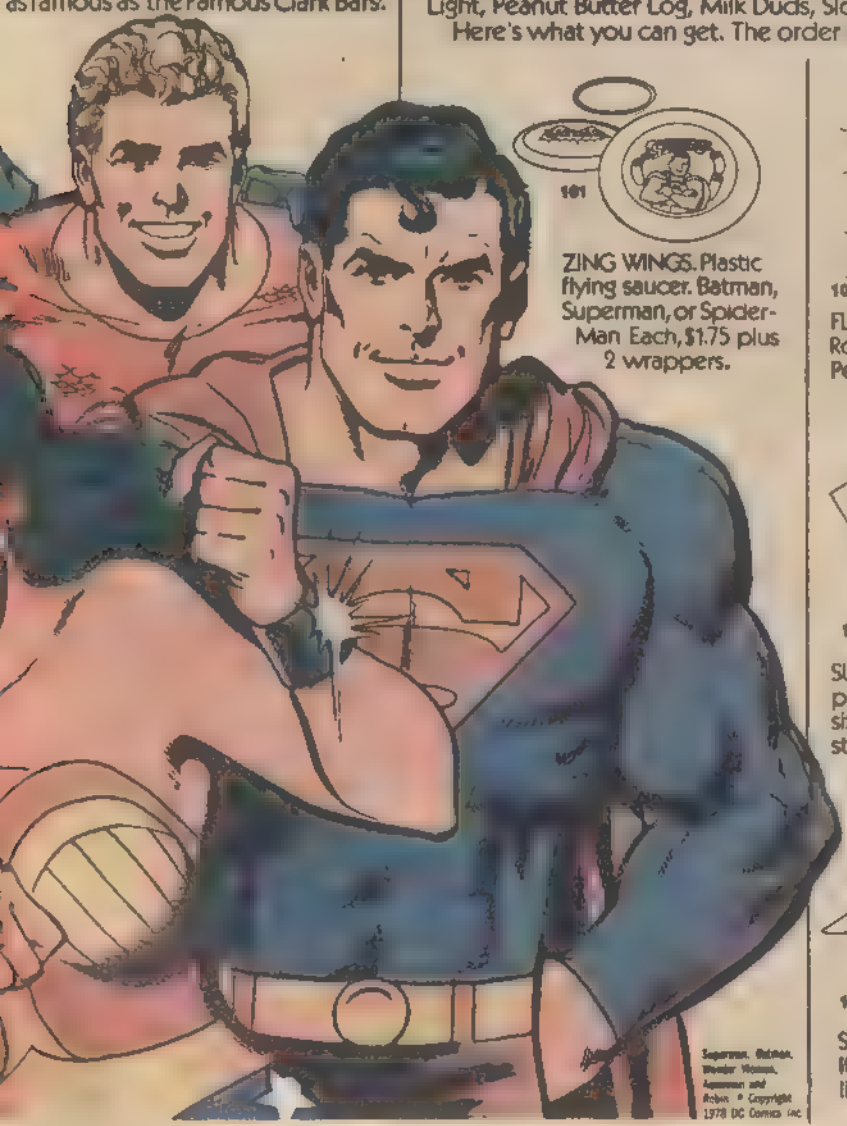

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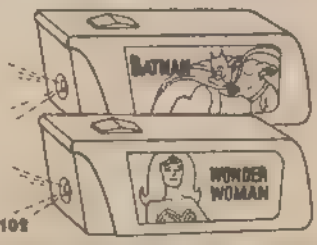

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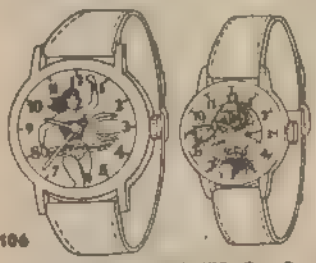

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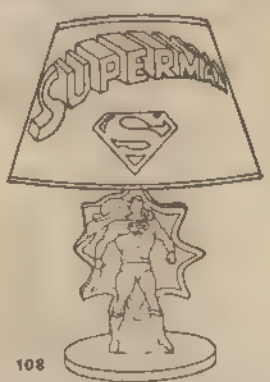

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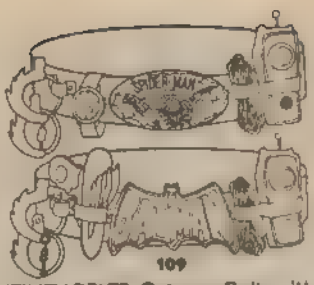

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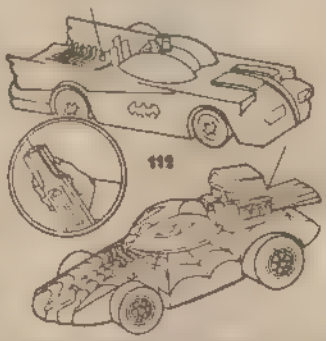

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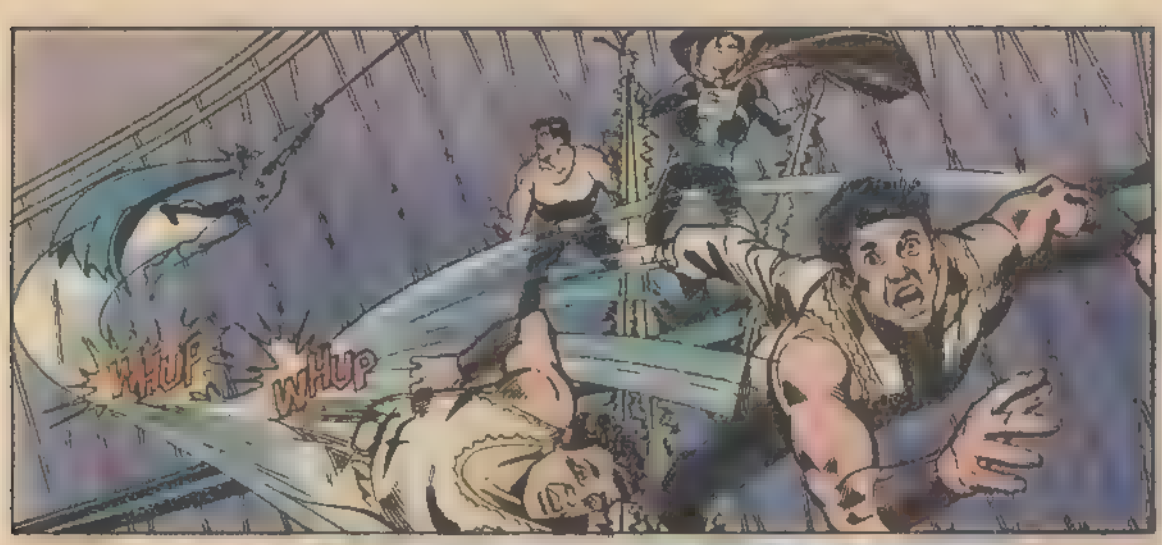
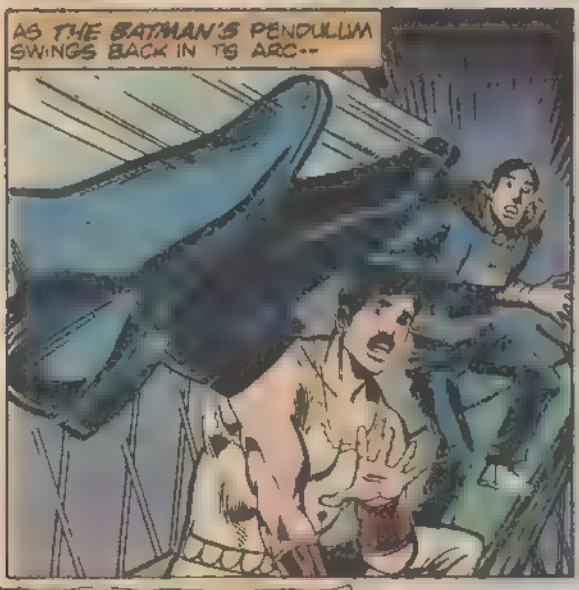
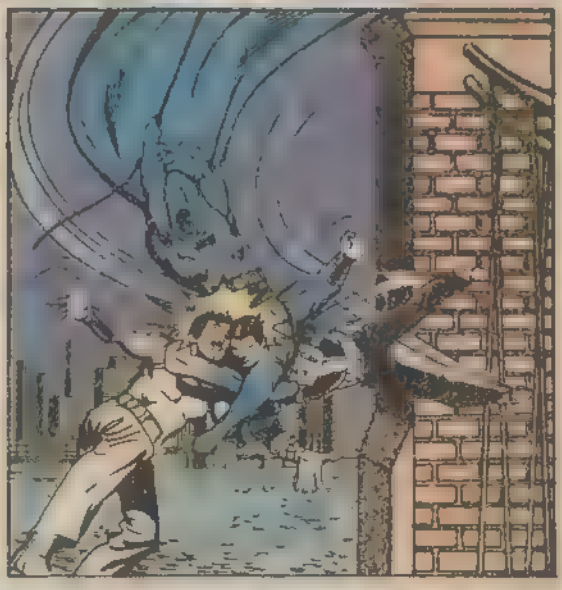
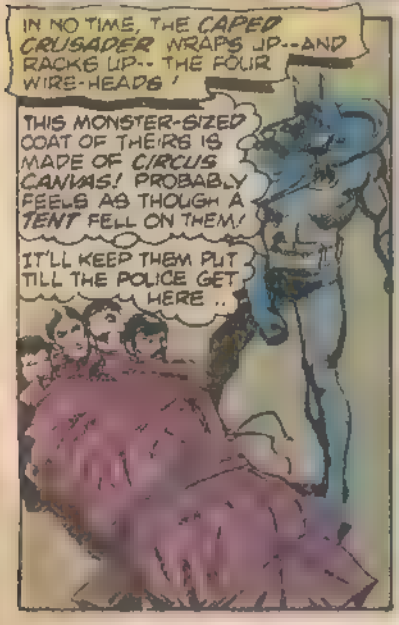
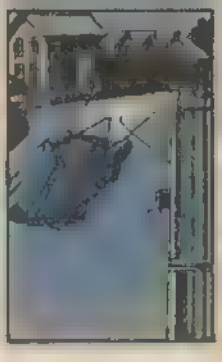


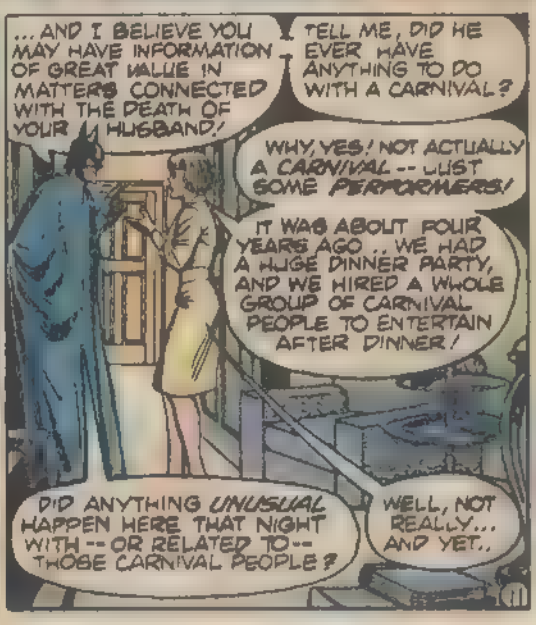


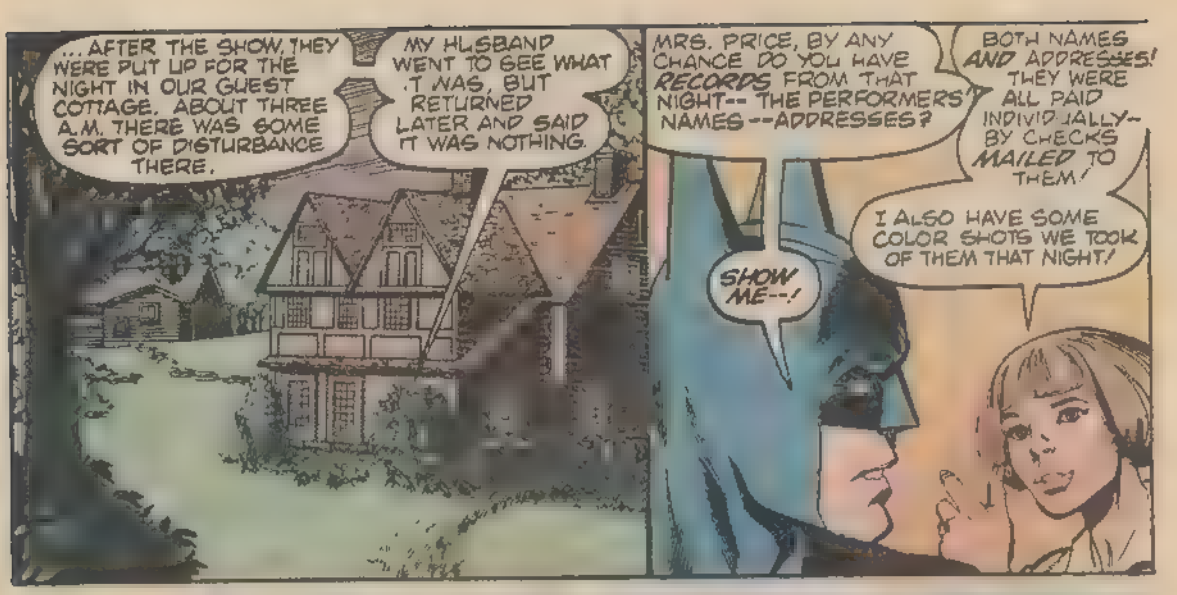


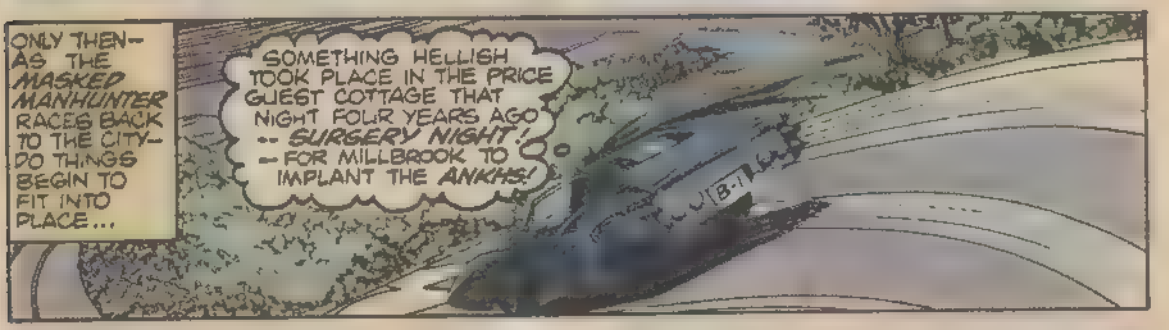

IN NO TIME, THE CAPED CRUSADER WRAPS UP--AND RACKS UP-- THE FOUR WIRE-HEADS!
THIS MONSTER-SIZED COAT OF THEIRS IS MADE OF CIRCUS CANVAS! PROBABLY FEELS AS THOUGH A TENT FELL ON THEM!
IT'LL KEEP THEM PUT TILL THE POLICE GET HERE..

HALF AN HOUR LATER... AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR CALLS AT THE SUBURBAN ESTATE OF THE LATE JUDSON PRICE--THE BANK-HEIST VICTIM WHOSE ACCIDENTAL DEATH PROVIDED THE FIRST CLUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE WIRE-HEADS!

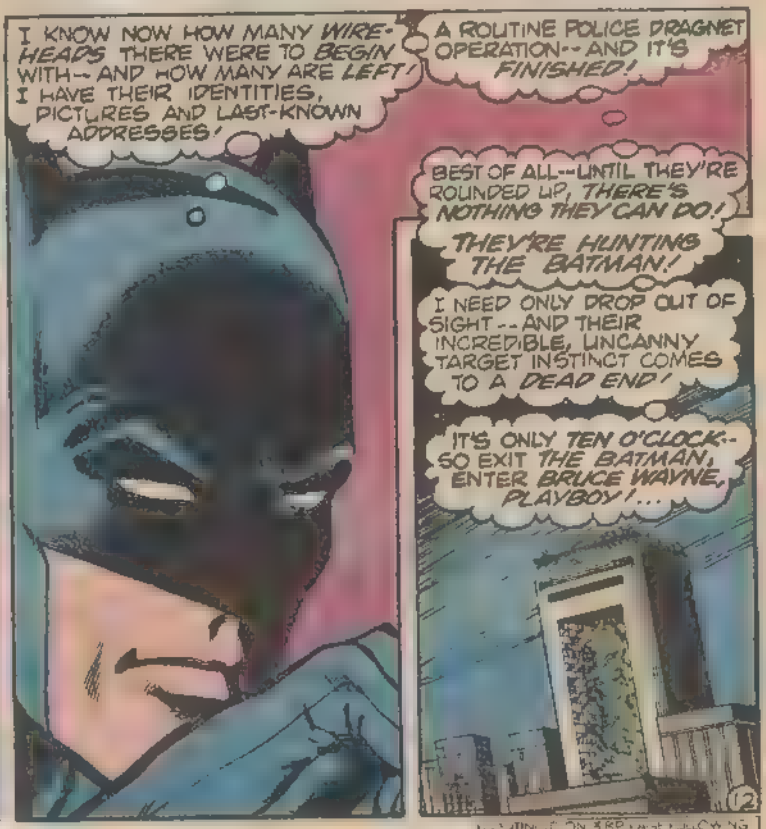



...AND I BELIEVE YOU MAY HAVE INFORMATION OF GREAT VALUE IN MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE DEATH OF YOUR HUSBAND!
TELL ME, DID HE EVER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A CARNIVAL?
WHY, YES! NOT ACTUALLY A CARNIVAL -- JUST SOME PERFORMERS!
IT WAS ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO.. WE HAD A HUGE DINNER PARTY, AND WE HIRED A WHOLE GROUP OF CARNIVAL PEOPLE TO ENTERTAIN AFTER DINNER!
DID ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPEN HERE THAT NIGHT WITH -- OR RELATED TO -- THOSE CARNIVAL PEOPLE?
WELL, NOT REALLY... AND YET..


...AFTER THE SHOW, THEY WERE PUT UP FOR THE NIGHT IN OUR GUEST COTTAGE. ABOUT THREE A.M. THERE WAS SOME SORT OF DISTURBANCE THERE.
MY HUSBAND WENT TO SEE WHAT IT WAS, BUT RETURNED LATER AND SAID IT WAS NOTHING.
MRS. PRICE, BY ANY CHANCE DO YOU HAVE RECORDS FROM THAT NIGHT-- THE PERFORMERS' NAMES--ADDRESSES?
BOTH NAMES AND ADDRESSES! THEY WERE ALL PAID INDIVIDUALLY-- BY CHECKS MAILED TO THEM!
I ALSO HAVE SOME COLOR SHOTS WE TOOK OF THEM THAT NIGHT!
SHOW ME--!


ONLY THEN-- AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER RACES BACK TO THE CITY-- DO THINGS BEGIN TO FIT INTO PLACE...
SOMETHING HELLISH TOOK PLACE IN THE PRICE GUEST COTTAGE THAT NIGHT FOUR YEARS AGO -- SURGERY NIGHT! -- FOR MILLBROOK TO IMPLANT THE ANKHS!

HE'D CHOSEN THE CARNIVAL PERFORMERS TO BECOME HIS WIRE-HEADS-- ALL WITH SUPERLATIVE TALENTS AND SKILLS THAT COULD BE TURNED INTO MURDEROUS SPECIALTIES!
BUT SOME SORT OF TROUBLE DEVELOPED THAT NIGHT-- BRINGING PRICE ON THE SCENE-- AND HE WAS GIVEN THE SAME TREATMENT!


I KNOW NOW HOW MANY WIRE-HEADS THERE WERE TO BEGIN WITH-- AND HOW MANY ARE LEFT! I HAVE THEIR IDENTITIES, PICTURES AND LAST-KNOWN ADDRESSES!
A ROUTINE POLICE DRAGNET OPERATION-- AND IT'S FINISHED!
BEST OF ALL-- UNTIL THEY'RE ROUNDED UP, THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO!
THEY'RE HUNTING THE BATMAN!
I NEED ONLY DROP OUT OF SIGHT-- AND THEIR INCREDIBLE, UNCANNY TARGET INSTINCT COMES TO A DEAD END!
IT'S ONLY TEN O'CLOCK-- SO EXIT THE BATMAN, ENTER BRUCE WAYNE, PLAYBOY!...
12

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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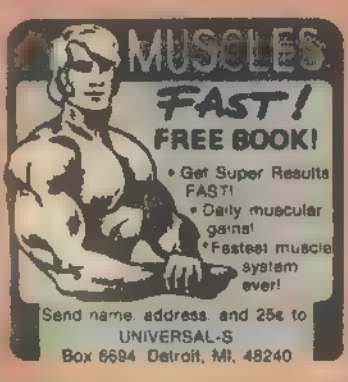

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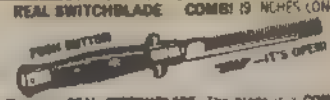

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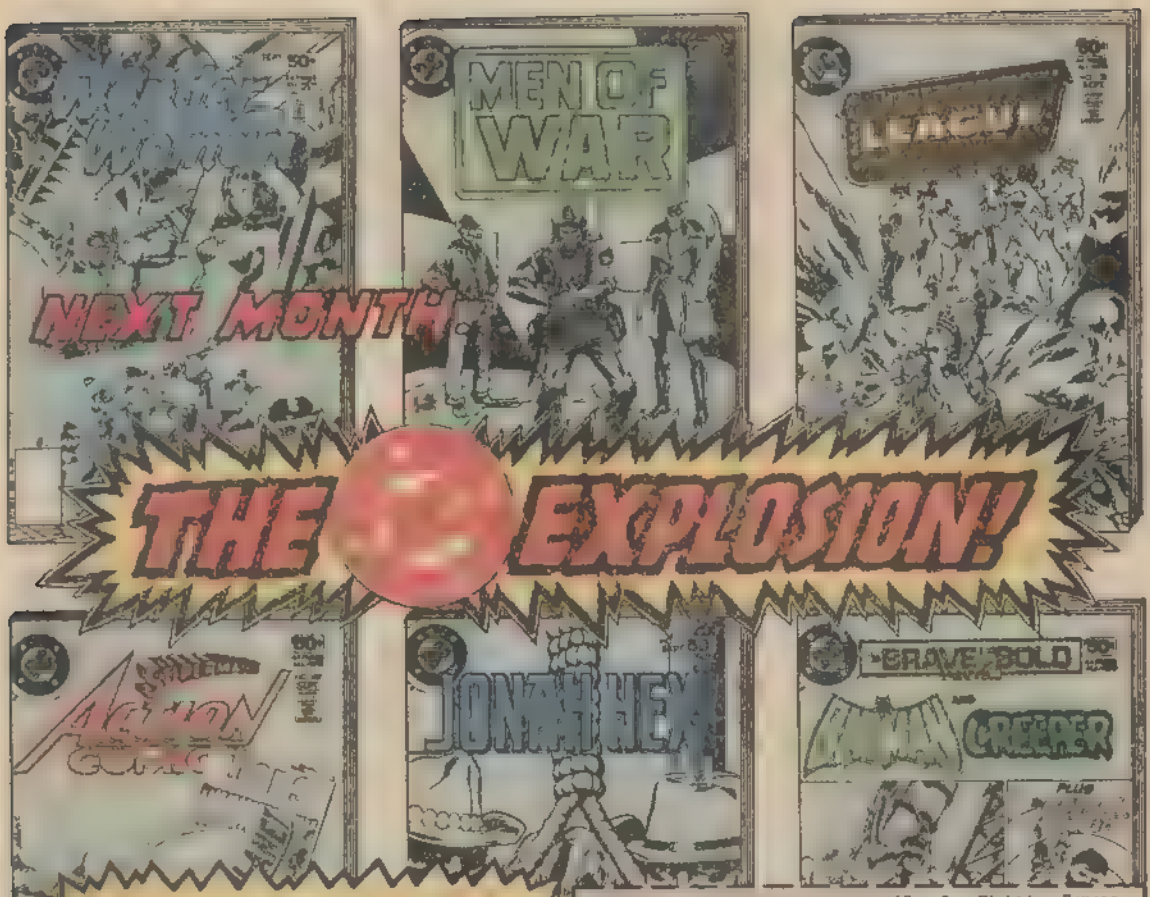

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REGGAE!
THREE A.M., AS THEY BIT ONE OUT..
WOULD YOU CARE TO ORDER, SIR?
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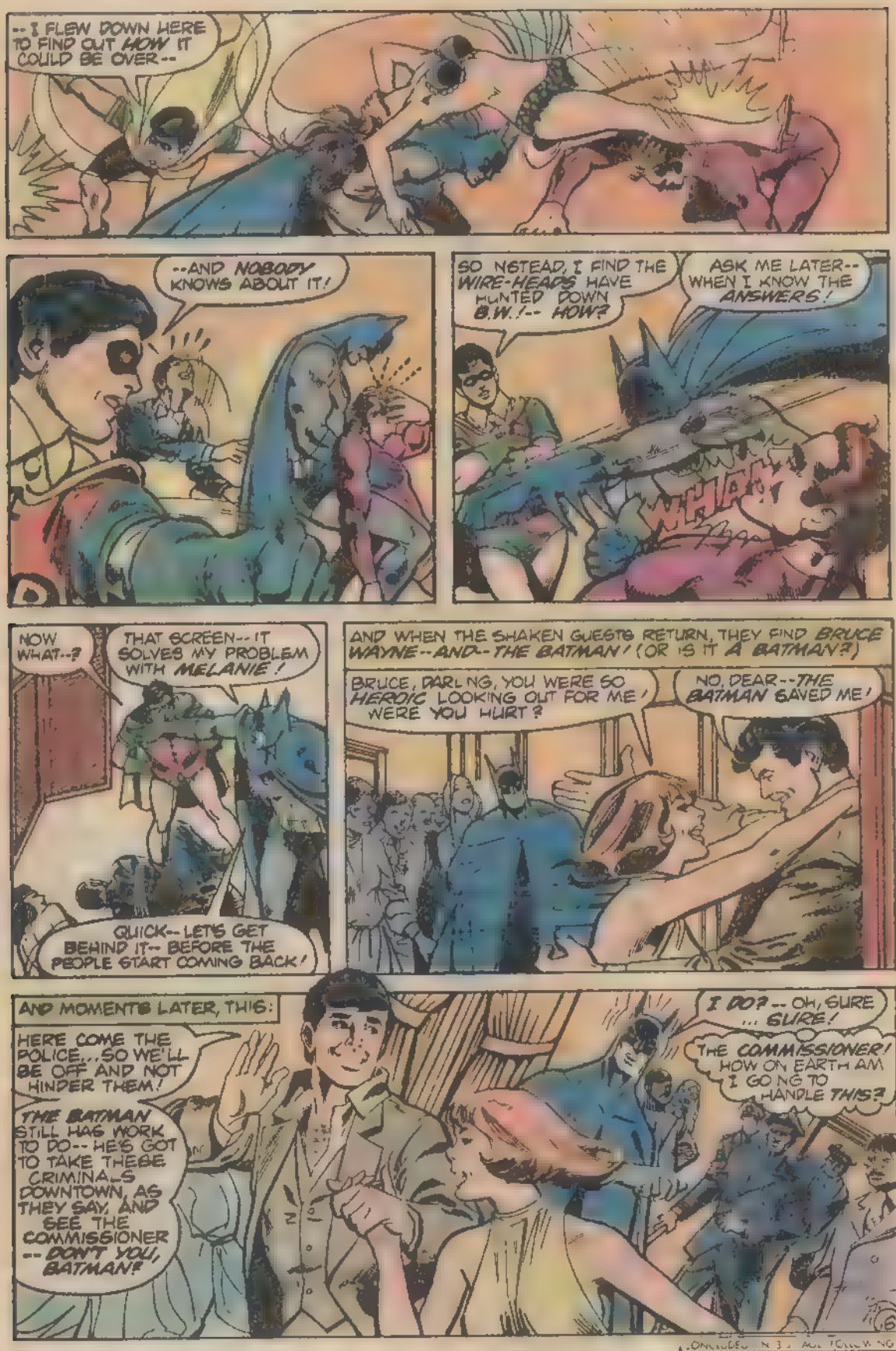
I KNOW THIS MAN! HIS FACE... HIS EYES! I'VE JUST SEEN HIS PICTURE! HE'S--
--THE MAGICIAN FROM THE CARNIVAL!
=GASP!= THE WAITER'S TRAY HAS TURNED INTO A SNAKE!
--A SIDEWINDER THAT INSTANTLY HURLS ITSELF FORWARD--AND WRAPS ITSELF AROUND BRUCE'S NECK AND CHAIR.
INCREDIBLE! THE WIRE-HEADS HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE!
THEY INSTINCTIVELY KNOW THEY'RE AFTER THE BATMAN--EVEN THOUGH IT'S BRUCE WAYNE THEY'RE ATTACKING!
A BLINDING FLASH OF GREEN LIGHT, AND THE MAGICIAN PRODUCES--
WHOOSH
SENORITA NUBIA--KNIFE-THROWER EXTRAORDINARIO!--AND WIRE-HEAD KILLER!
3

AT WHICH POINT BRUCE WAYNE DEFTLY SLIPS OUT OF THE ROPE AND...
DUCK, MELANIE!
HE DIVES FOR COVER--
--AND ALL IT TAKES IS A FEW MOMENTS OF GENERAL PANDEMONIUM--
--TO BRING ON THE BATMAN!
KNIFE AND BATARANG PASS IN MIDAIR--
BFWISH
THUK
--BUT ONLY ONE OF THEM IS ON TARGET!
AGAIN A BRILLIANT EXPLOSION--AND--
--PYRO THE TORCH!
WHOOOSH
THEY'RE ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR--THE LAST THREE WIRE-HEADS WORKING TOGETHER!
14

SWIFTLY, BILLOWING FLAME BEGINS TO ENGULF THE COWLED CRIMEFIGHTER...
GOT TO DOUSE PYRO BEFORE HE SETS THE PLACE ON FIRE-- OR BARBECUES ME!
AT THAT PERILOUS INSTANT--
ROBIN--!?
WHO ELSE--?
WHOOSH!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
WOULD YOU BELIEVE THE MAGICIAN CONJURED ME UP--?
KANG
IF HE DID-- HE'S SORRY!
I TELEPHONED ALF--
--AND WHEN HE TOLD ME YOU'D GONE HERE TO CELEBRATE--
--BECAUSE IT WAS ALL OVER--
POW!
15


-- I FLEW DOWN HERE TO FIND OUT HOW IT COULD BE OVER --
--AND NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT!
SO INSTEAD, I FIND THE WIRE-HEADS HAVE HUNTED DOWN B.W.!-- HOW?
ASK ME LATER-- WHEN I KNOW THE ANSWERS!
WHAP!
NOW WHAT--?
THAT SCREEN-- IT SOLVES MY PROBLEM WITH MELANIE!
QUICK-- LET'S GET BEHIND IT-- BEFORE THE PEOPLE START COMING BACK!
AND WHEN THE SHAKEN GUESTS RETURN, THEY FIND BRUCE WAYNE--AND--THE BATMAN! (OR IS IT A BATMAN?)
BRUCE, DARLING, YOU WERE SO HEROIC LOOKING OUT FOR ME! WERE YOU HURT?
NO, DEAR--THE BATMAN SAVED ME!
AND MOMENTS LATER, THIS:
HERE COME THE POLICE... SO WE'LL BE OFF AND NOT HINDER THEM!
THE BATMAN STILL HAS WORK TO DO-- HE'S GOT TO TAKE THESE CRIMINALS DOWNTOWN, AS THEY SAY, AND SEE THE COMMISSIONER -- DON'T YOU, BATMAN!
I DO? -- OH, SURE ... SURE!
THE COMMISSIONER! HOW ON EARTH AM I GOING TO HANDLE THIS?
6

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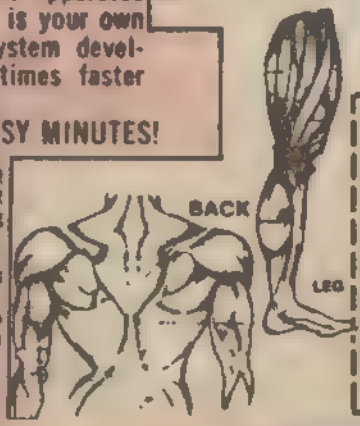

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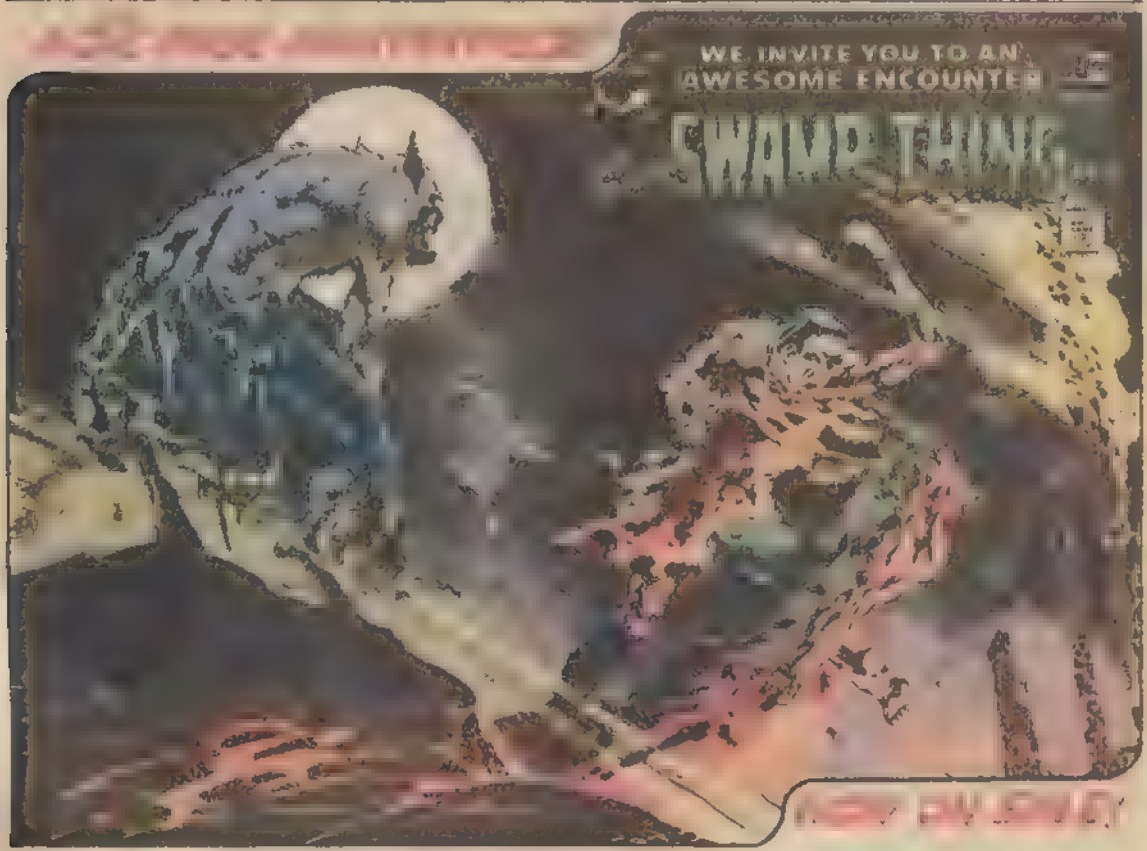

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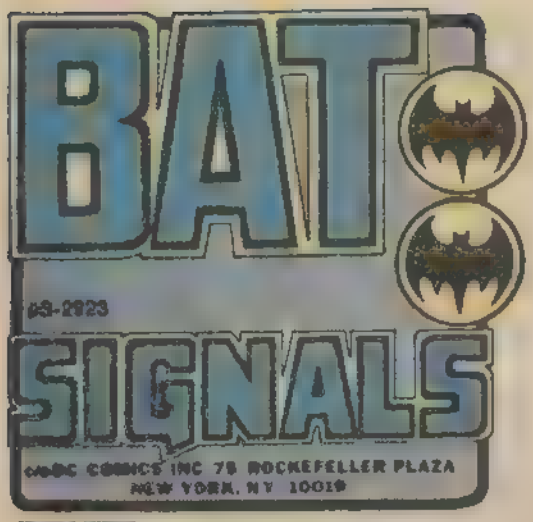
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- THE WIRE-HEADS ARE FINGHED, BUT YOU CAN'T GIVE ME ANY DETAILS NOW?
THERE'S A PANTING MOB OF NEWSMEN WAITING OUTSIDE-- AND WE'VE GOT OUR BIGGEST STORY IN YEARS FOR THEM!
YOU BROUGHT IN SEVEN PEOPLE TONIGHT-- SEVEN VICTIMS--MANIPULATED REFLEX MANIACS! I WANT THE DETAILS!
TOMORROW, COMMISSIONER... IT'S BEEN A LONG, EXHAUSTING NIGHT!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, BATMAN... YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE YOURSELF!
SOME HOURS LATER AT THE WAYNE RESIDENCE. .
FIVE O'CLOCK OR NO FIVE O'CLOCK, I'LL SHOW HIM! CATCHING ME FLATFOOTED WITH THAT STUNT! I'M WAITING UP FOR HIM!
VERY GOOD, MASTER DICK. BUT YOU MAY HAVE A LONGER WAIT THAN YOU'RE EXPECTING!
AND THAT LAST REMARK OF ALFRED'S PROVES TO BE CLAIRVOYANT--
BUT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME YET WHERE WE'RE GOING!
TO THE LAND OF YOUR DREAMS, MELANIE --WHERE ELSE?
17

Next Issue! 25 PAGES OF NEW STORY AND ART! TWO COMPLETE THRILLERS: "BATMAN'S GREAT IDENTITY SWITCH" and the First in a new series: "UNSOLVED CASES OF THE BATMAN"!

The BIGGER We Are, the BETTER We Are!



Dear Editor:

There are times when certain individuals deserve praise for their efforts. This letter is to laud you, Mr. Schwartz, along with David V. Reed, John Calnan, Dick Giordano and everyone else responsible for the revolutionary change and/or return to normalcy that has enriched the pages of **BATMAN.**

BATMAN #296 ("Case of the Crimson Coffin") impressed me more than any other issue and most impressive was the restoration of "mystery" surrounding **The Batman.** I could scribe a thousand words describing what I mean by "mystery", but the first panel on page 6 says it all. That picture is the epitome of what **Batman** is all about. **Batman** is shown carrying a candle through a damp, rat-infested cavern. Symbolism? That panel could be interpreted in many ways by many people. To me, the cavern represents the world of crime. **Batman** with the candle is the "light" to combat that darkness, or crime. At face value, the illustration is mystery and eeriness typified.

But mystery is not the only virtue to return to the Caped Crusader. His **respectability** has been reinstated. After the TV show, his image took a dive to total embarrassment, but now he is once again **The Batman.**

By the way, one facet of **Batman's** legend that must remain is his bachelorhood. I cannot imagine Bruce Wayne as a married man. He would seldom be home.

And then there's **Robin . . .** or to be more exact, there **isn't Robin.** His return would complete **Batman's** return to normalcy. But if **Robin's** return is not to be, perhaps **Batman** could gain a new partner.

Maybe I'm getting carried away, but **Batman** is indeed flying high once more.

[redacted]
156½ W. Wheeling St.
Lancaster, OH 43130

We've been under the impression that the majority of Bat-fans prefer him as a loner. So, to find out which way the wind is blowing, how about a poll? Would you prefer 1) Batman alone, 2) Batman regularly teamed with Robin, 3) Batman teamed with a new partner or 4) occasional Batman/Robin team-ups? Send your opinion only on a post card and we'll publish a tally in a future issue. The address, as always, appears at the top of the page!—BR

Dear Editor:

David V. Reed has no mercy when it comes to putting **The Batman** through his paces. In **#296,** he has not only given the Caped Crusader the problem of solving the "Case of the Crimson Coffin", but he has also forced **Batman** to protect his secret identity by extreme measures. The clues given were passed off as generalistic, but **Batman** can't afford to have his foes tracking down and investigating the limited number of Gothamites who would fill the bill. But if anyone can get **Batman** out of this mess, it is Mr. Reed.

By the way, it was great to hear Commissioner Gordon say he wasn't interested in learning **Batman's** identity. This demonstrates the tremendous respect that **Batman** has gained over the years.

The art on the issue was equally great! Dick Giordano is a genius and greatly complements John Calnan's pencilwork. Dick adds the shadowy, grim, more vengeful and mysterious mood that **Batman** needs.

WALLACE L. HOPKIN
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

As we write this, Dick has just finished BATMAN #300, which meant that Tex Blaisdell had to be called on to fill in and catch up to our deadlines for #301. However, Mr. G. is back again this issue!—BR

• • • • •

Dear Editor

"Case of the Crimson Coffin" was the perfect **Batman** story! Dick Giordano's shady, mysterious inks were just the thing to brighten (darken?) up John Calnan's artwork. **Batman** was practically jumping out of the pages at me!

The David V. Reed script was brilliantly complex. After years of reading **Batman,** I can usually figure out continued stories, but this one has me tied up in knots. Reed's pyramiding of the story until it contains everything from sliced salami and the Joint Chiefs of Staff wearing veils has me totally engrossed, and for the first time in years, I am pacing the floor awaiting the conclusion to a story!

Only **The Batman** could keep track of such a mad merry-go-round. His side-plot annoyance at the dropped identity clues, based not on any real proof that they are harmless, but on a stubborn pride that his secret is uncrackable was a masterstroke.

CHARLES BROWN
[redacted]
Brentwood, NY 11717

• • • • •

COMING BAT-TRACTIONS! Next issue, the DC EXPLOSION blasts onto the newsstands as we present an all-new 17-page tale "Batman's Great Identity Switch," plus the premiere of a brand-new series by Denny O'Neil and Mike Golden! Don't miss it . . . because this is the beginning of a whole new look in [redacted]! —Bat, Batgirl

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VOLUME 76 ISSUE 18 | WEEK OF MAY 1 1978 | BOB ROZAKIS EDITOR | ANTHONY TOLLIN PRODUCTION

CLAW GOES BERSERK!

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FIRESTORM #4—There's danger for our nuclear man "When Laughs the Hyena" in this Gerry Conway/Al Milgrom collaboration!

THE FLASH #264—It's the final showdown between *The Flash* and *Ringmaster* in "The Golden Glider's Final Fling" by Cary Bates, Kurt Schaffenberger and Frank McLaughlin

JONAH HEX #15—*Jonah* joins a carnival a uncovers a combination of "Sawdust and Slow Death" by David Michelinie and Vicente Alcazar

ORIGINAL SWAMP THING SAGA—Following the success of last year's special, we re-present "The Patchwork Man" and "A Monster on the Moors" by Len Wein and Berni Wrightson.

SUPERMAN #326—*Superman's* about to reveal his identity to the world on nation-wide TV and it'll cost the sponsors "A Million Dollars a Minute" in this Marty Pasko/Curt Swan/Frank Chiaramonte story.

WEIRD WAR TALES #66—A book-length special: Bob Toomey and Tom Sutton present "The Iron Star"!

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HOUSE OF SECRETS #153 goes on sale the week of May 8th!

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: What planet does *Professor Zoom*, the Reverse-Flash, come from?—Mitchell Charkas. *A:* He hails from 64th century Earth.

Q: Does *Batman* have super-strength?—Doug Gwynn. *A:* No, just muscles that have been exercised and trained to perfection

Q: What Earth do we live on?—Michael Burstein. *A:* Earth-Prime.

Q: Why doesn't Batman team up with *Red Tornado, Hawkgirl* or *Elongated Man* in *BRAVE & BOLD*?—Fred Sievert. *A:* We'll pass the suggestions along to *B&B* editor Paul Levitz. Meantime, watch for *RT* and *EM* joining up with *Batgirl* and *Robin* in *BATMAN FAMILY* #20!

Q: What was *Power Girl's* first appearance?—Michael Burkhalter *A: ALL-STAR COMICS* #58

Q: Why doesn't *Firebrand* (of the *Freedom Fighters)* have a new costume?—No Name Given. *A:* He likes his old one!

Q: Will we be seeing the new *Doom Patrol* again?—Charles David Haskell. *A:* Yes, they're scheduled to join *Supergirl* in upcoming issues of *SUPERMAN FAMILY*!

Q: In what comic book did the *Legion of Super-Heroes* first appear?—Hugh Williams. *A: ADVENTURE COMICS* #247!

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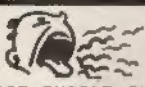

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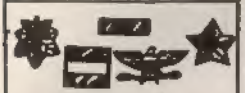

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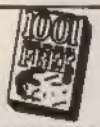
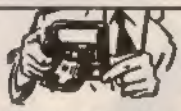
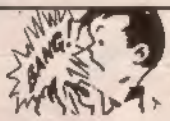
HYPNO-COIN. Free with **25 LESSONS IN HYPNOTISM.** Do you realize the power that hypnotism will give you? With the magic power of hypnosis you can hypnotize at a glance, make people obey your commands, strengthen your memory develop a strong personality, overcome bad habits. 25 lessons covers this and much more. Order now and receive new patented HYPNO-COIN Free.
☐ No. 130 $1.00



1001 FREE THINGS. Get FREE gifts, novelties, books, product samples, toys, maps, etc from companies, federal agencies, associations, etc that are anxious to send you FREE 63 page book with names and addresses to write to for your 1001 FREE things.
☐ No. 748 98¢ each

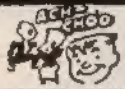


"MONEY MAKER" is sensational! Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine, turn the knob and, from the opposite side, PRESTO! OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a one dollar bill and it changes to a $5.00 bill, or $10.00. No skill required. Lots of fun and mystery
☐ No. 325 ONLY $1.00

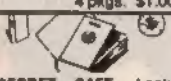


EXPLODING FOUNTAIN PEN. Looks like a regular fountain pen. But when they start to write —look out! It goes off with a bang like a hand grenade! Can be used over and over. Harmless.
☐ No. 119 $1.49 Each
☐ X-tra Loud Ammo 25¢

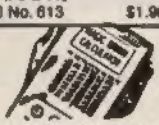
IT'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE. Every hobbyist, camper, sports fan, hunter, scout, will want one. You get all the following ing this little (only 3½" when folded) wonder! 1—Reading lens. 2—Compound microscope. 3—Adjustable telescope. 4—Focusing binoculars. 5—Directional compass 6—Solar time clock. 7—Flat mirror 8—Magnifying mirror. 9—Fire lighter 10—Code transmitter
☐ No. 776 $1.00



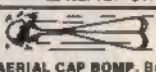
SNEEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.
☐ No. 104 30¢ pkg. 4 pkgs. $1.00



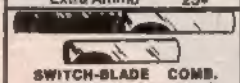
SECRET SAFE. Looks like an attractively bound book in simulated leather, but open reveals a combination lock safe to camouflage your valuable papers, money, etc. 4 x 6 x 1½"
☐ No. 613 $1.98



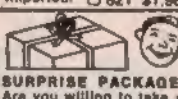
MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts and multiplies to 9,999,999. No knowledge needed to solve math problems. Gives homework answers. Fast easy to operate and accurate 5½" x 5" x 4" Fits anywhere
☐ No. 157 $1.49



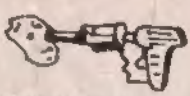
AERIAL CAP BOMB. Built like a real bomb! Gives a loud explosion when dropped or thrown on a hard surface. All metal with large fintail. Complete with 72 ammo rounds. Free gift and catalog with order.
☐ No. 799 $1.00
Extra Ammo 25¢



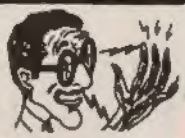
SWITCH-BLADE COMB. Sensational! Just touch button and combs flip out, locks automatically. Release and comb retracts into handsome aluminum and black case. Light, strong, durable. Comes in clear, vinyl carrying case. 7½" overall length. 4¼" closed. Imported. ☐ 821 $1.98



SURPRISE PACKAGE. Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you will receive but because you're willing to gamble, we promise you much more than your money's worth.
☐ No. 816 75¢

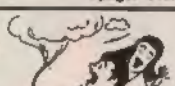


POTATO GUN. Here's a new fast action gun, that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless...and you never run out of ammo.
☐ No. 753 $1.49



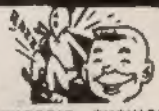
X-RAY SPECS. Slip on a pair of these X-Ray specs. This hilarious optical illusion allows you to seemingly "see" the bones of your hands. Lots of fun at parties. Your friends will think you can see right through them
☐ No. 115 $1.49

SNOWSTORM TABLETS. Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel
☐ No. 106 30¢ pkg. 4 pkgs. $1.00

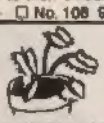


MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS. When you light one of these small grenades, huge, thick clouds of color, continue to pour out. Will amaze and thrill you and your friends. Can be used for magic tricks and signaling, etc.
☐ No. 617 4 for $1.00

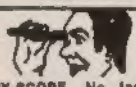
MAGIC SOAP POWDER. Sprinkle a little of this almost invisible magic powder on any soap. When anyone uses the soap their hands and face will turn bloody red. Have fun! Drives them crazy! Harmless!
☐ No. 123 30¢ pkg. 4 pkgs. $1.00



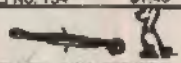
WHOOPIE CUSHION. Simply place it on someone's chair or couch. When your favorite victim sits down—watch the fun and whoopie begin! Strange sound effects, better imagined than described, will fill the air much to their embarrassment. ☐ No. 108 98¢



FLESH EATING PLANTS. Most unusual plant in the world. Eats flies, bugs, spiders, etc. Feeds itself by trapping and eating these insects. Jaws will snap shut on anything at your command. Easy to grow with special soil and full instruction included ☐ No. 760 $1.00



SPY-SCOPE. No larger than a fountain pen, spots objects blocks away. Excellent for all sports, counter-spying, baseball, hikes. Power lenses optically ground to reproduce every detail. 8-power telescope, also converts into a 30-power microscope.
☐ No. 134 $1.49



SILENT DOG WHISTLE. Special supersonic features make this whistle silent so that the human ear cannot hear it. But your dog can and will respond instantly over ½ mile away. Amaze everyone. With this whistle you can teach your dog tricks quickly and easily. All steel construction.
☐ No. 133 $1.29

AUTHENTIC MILITARY PATCHES. First time offered! Colorful, Giant size real cloth patches in bright colors. Some up to 6 inches long. Command attention! Decorate shirts, jackets, coats etc.
☐ No. 826 2 for $1.00

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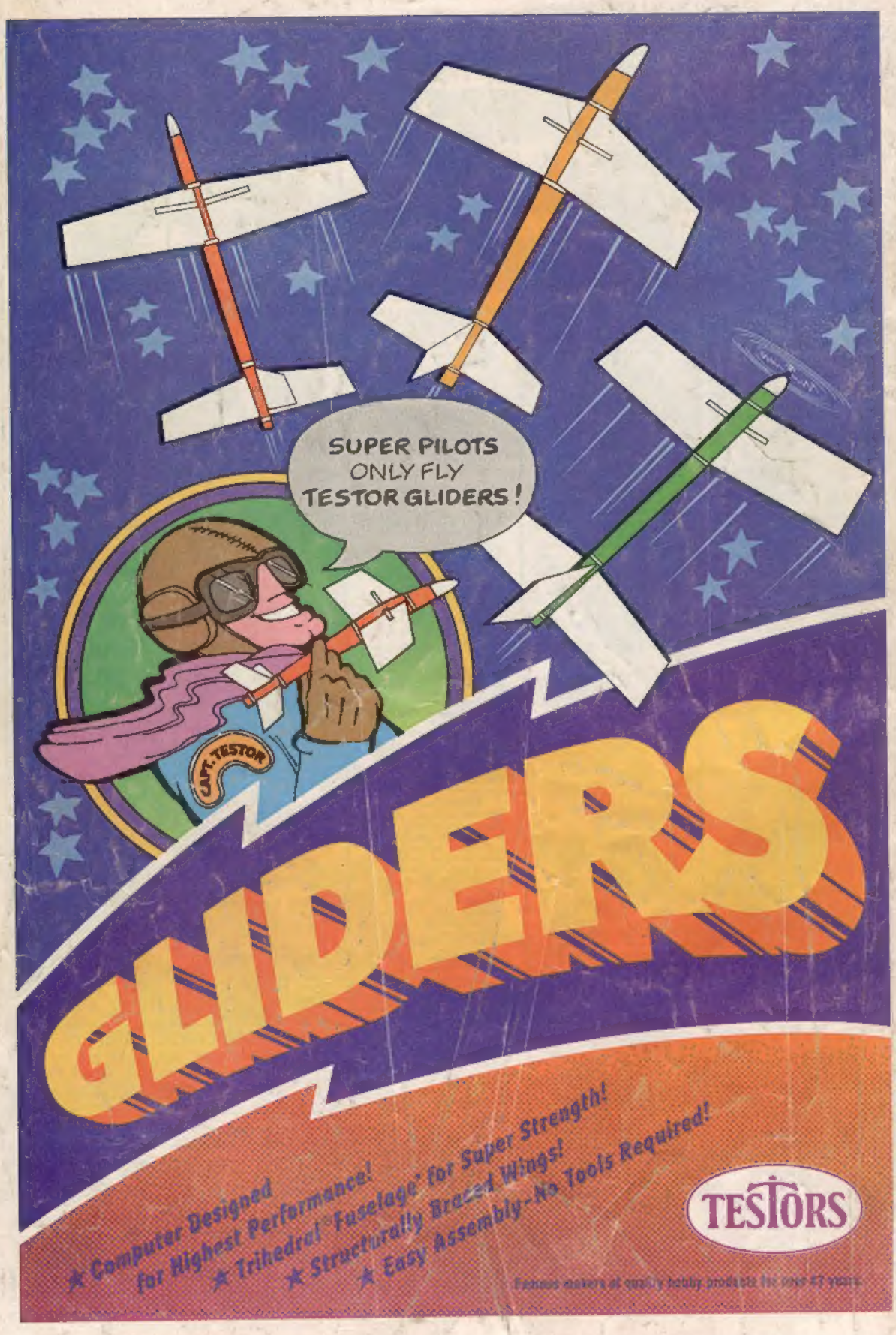
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Okay, all you characters out there. Here's your big chance to be a real character. Comic-book style.

You don't have to buy anything. Or do anything, except to mail us the Famous Clark Bar Superhero Sweepstakes entry blank with your name and address.

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FIRST PRIZE

If you're lucky enough to win the first prize, Clark will fly you and your family (limit of four people) to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

We'll take you on a tour of the D C Comics offices, so an artist can draw you into an upcoming issue of your favorite D C comic book.

You'll be part of the action, right along with one of D C's famous comic-book superheroes.

You'll have plenty of free time in Gotham, too. For seeing the Statue of Liberty, or taking boat rides, or just looking up at tall buildings a lot and saying "Wow!"

And, when your comic-book adventure is published, we'll send you 15 copies for your family and friends. They'll be proud to know a famous person like you.

SECOND PRIZE

If you're one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your choice of Famous Superhero watches. Superman, Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, Batman, or (if your taste should happen to run to supervillains instead) the Joker. The watches are Swiss-made, with full-color superhero pictures, and would normally sell for $19.95 to $23.95.

THIRD PRIZE

If you're one of 100 third-prize winners, we'll send you a year's subscription to your favorite D C or Marvel comic book. The Incredible Hulk, Red Sonja, Thor, Green Lantern, Plastic Man, Captain America, Wonder Woman, Justice Society, Ms. Marvel, you name it. Even Little Lulu.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill in the entry blank (please print), and mail your entry to us before November 1, 1978.

Who knows? It could make you as famous as the Famous Clark Bars.

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RULES:

1. To enter, type or print clearly your name, address and zip code on this official entry blank, or on a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper. You can enter as many times as you want, but each entry must be mailed separately.
2. With each entry, send one wrapper from any Clark or Holloway candy product, or the words "FAMOUS CLARK BARS" printed on a separate piece of 3"x5" paper. (You can send wrappers from Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke, or Black Cow.)
3. Send entries to Superhero Sweepstakes, Box 55, Chicago, Illinois 60677.
4. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 10, 1978.
5. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted by H. Olsen & Company, an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final.
6. Prizes are non-transferable, and substitution of prizes is not allowed. Only one prize to a family. The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.
7. This sweepstakes is open to all U.S. residents, except employees (and their immediate families) of Beatrice Foods, its advertising agencies, and H. Olsen & Company. Void in Missouri, and wherever else prohibited by law. Subject to all Federal, state and local laws and regulations.
8. If you want a list of winners, send a separate stamped, self-addressed envelope to Box 6260, Chicago, Illinois 60677.

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106

The D.L. Clark Company, A Division of Beatrice Foods

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BE A WINNER ALL YEAR LONG, WITH WRAPPERS FROM FAMOUS CLARK BARS!

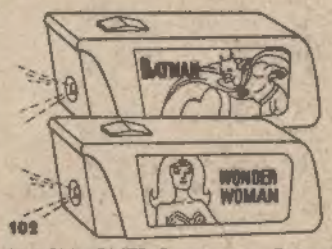
Okay. What you just read about was a contest. This isn't.

What this is, is a terrific way to get Famous Superhero premiums any time you want them. By collecting wrappers from any of the Famous Clark and Holloway products. Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke, or Black Cow.

Here's what you can get. The order blank is on the next page.

101

ZING WINGS. Plastic flying saucer. Batman, Superman, or Spider-Man. Each, $1.75 plus 2 wrappers.



102

FLASHLIGHTS. Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman. Includes Penlite battery.

Each, $1.25 plus 2 wrappers.

103

SUPERSTICKERS. Get four sheets of pressure-sensitive stickers in all sizes. Just peel off the backing and stick them anywhere.

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104

SUPERKITE. Look! Up in the sky! It's Spider-Man, in full color on a lightweight vinyl kite.

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